

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJECT: CHICAGO TRIBUNE EDITORIAL, TUESDAY, SEPT. 2, 1975

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 47

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE PERILS OF COMPASSION"
APPEARED THIS A.M.

FLAP HAS SUBSIDED OVER PART PLAYED BY U.S. AMBASSADOR TO
TANZANIA IN RECENT RELEASE OF 3 STUDENTS WHO HAD BEEN KID-
NAPPED FROM THEIR TANZANIAN CAMP BY REBELS FROM NEIGHBORING
ZAIRE. AS FAR AS PUBLIC OPINION IS CONCERNED, AMBASSADOR
W. BEVERLY CARTER SEEMSTO HAVE EMERGED WINNER AND SECSTATE
KISSINGER THE LOSER.

THIS IS PUTTING SHORT-TERM HUMANITARIANISM AHEAD OF LONG-
TERM HUMANITARIANISM. BY ACCUSING MR. CARTER (WHO IS ONE
OF OUR FIVE BLACK AMBASSADORS) OF VIOLATING STATE DEPT
RULES AGAINST DEALING WITH TERRORISTS, DR. KISSINGER WAS
LOOKING AT LONG-TERM PICTURE. WHEN IT WAS REPORTED THAT
HE WANTED TO FIRE OR DEMOTE MR. CARTER, HE WAS DENOUNCED
BY A NUMBER OF LIBERAL COLUMNISTS AND URGED BY NYTIMES TO
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BACK DOWN -- WHICH HE DID, AT LEAST TO EXTENT OF LETTING

MR. CARTER STAY IN HIS JOB FOR TIME BEING. MR. CARTER DOES SEEM TO HAVE LOST CHANCE FOR A PROMOTION TO AMBASSADORSHIP TO DENMARK.

GRANTED, IT'S HARD TO CRITICIZE MR. CARTER. HERE WERE PARENTS OF AMERICAN STUDENTS BEGGING FOR HIS HELP, AND HERE WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF KIDNAPPERS ON EMBASSY DOOR-STEP TRYING TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS. WHAT ELSE COULD HE DO BUT ALLOW USE OF EMBASSY AND SOME OF ITS SERVICES? HE COULD REASON, PERHAPS LEGITIMATELY, THAT HE WASN'T COMMITTING U.S. TO ANYTHING; HE WAS ACTING ONLY AS A GO-BETWEEN.

BUT BY SAME TOKEN, WHAT ELSE COULD DR. KISSINGER DO? HE HAD TAKEN A FIRM STAND AGAINST DEALING WITH TERRORISTS ON WHAT WE BELIEVE WAS CORRECT ASSUMPTION THAT IF TERRORISTS THINK U.S. WILL STOOP TO DOING BUSINESS WITH THEM, THEN AMERICANS WILL BECOME TARGETS FOR HARASSMENT EVERYWHERE IN WORLD BY TERRORISTS WHO THINK THEY CAN BLACKMAIL THIS COUNTRY INTO GIVING THEM MONEY OR HELPING THEIR CAUSE. WHATEVER HIS RATIONALIZATIONS, MR. CARTER'S ACTIONS UNDERMINED THIS POSITION.

UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES DR. KISSINGER HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PUT ON A PUBLIC DISPLAY OF ANGER NO MATTER WHAT HIS PERSONAL FEELINGS MAY HAVE BEEN (THOUGH IT'S ENTIRELY LIKELY THAT THEY WERE OF ANGER, TOO). IF OTHER AMBASSADORS ARE FACED WITH THE DILEMMA THAT FACED MR. CARTER, THERE MUST BE NO DOUBT IN THEIR MINDS OF PERILS OF COMPASSION ON THEIR PART. AND, WHAT IS INFINITELY MORE IMPORTANT, SO MUST ANY WOULD-BE TERRORISTS. ROBINSON

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